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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editors are not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to insure publication.

BITS OF NEWS FROM ABROAD

DEAR EDITOR: In journeying about France, it has been my good fortune to pass a week at the "Porsmeur," in Morlaix, Brittany. At this delightful Cure for Tuberculosis, established by a public-spirited American lady, the Thezac-Porsmeur method of sun treatment has been introduced. The essential of the treatment is the concentration of the sun's rays by means of a double convex lens with a diameter of twelve inches and a focal length of seventy-two inches. The lens is mounted in a cylinder ten inches deep, lined with brass finish, and attached to a tripod of metal, allowing adjustment at different angles and heights. The heat is very great. The patient should be placed at a point where the sun's rays form a circle of from three to five inches in diameter. The duration of the sun treatment should lengthen progressively. Beginning with five minutes, the increase may be five minutes daily up to thirty minutes, and can be applied twice daily. It is used with marked results in lupus, lung, glandular and bone involvement.

The patients are well nourished and kept quiet in bed till temperatures are normal. While taking the sun cure they wear no corsets nor stockings, and only light-colored clothing is permitted, as the rays of the sun will not penetrate dark material.

ANNA C. MAXWELL.

THE STATUS OF CANTONMENT ZONE NURSES

I

DEAR EDITOR: Upon applying for the New Jersey state bonus, nurses who served under the Red Cross in the Cantonment Zones found they were ineligible for the bonus because they were not considered in any way a part of the military establishment. I understand that the same rule applies in other states that have legislated bonuses for soldiers, and that it will also apply to any federal bonus that may be declared. The matter is being taken up by the American Red Cross and legislation may be secured which will change the present ruling. I have never read anything in *The Journal* bearing on this subject, but I am sure all nurses who are interested would be glad to hear from time to time through *The Journal* what progress is being made toward such legislation.

Virginia.

A. M. B.

II

DEAR EDITOR: The nurses assigned to the United States Public Health Service either in extra-cantonment zones or in hospitals conducted by that Service during the war are not eligible for war risk compensation or admittance to the American Legion. I have been told that they are debarred from the bonus of the states, although there have been some exceptions. This group of nurses is one that has caused us great anxiety. I have made every effort to secure a reversal of the present decision of the American Legion and a request is now before the executive board. I have also presented a plan to the executive committee of the Red Cross to provide compensation for such members of this group as may be physically disqualified or unfitted for further service. While the President proclaimed the United States Public Health Service during war as part of the

military establishment, the nurses and medical staff, I believe, were not federalized and therefore have not been regarded as compensable. I believe, however, that if a test case were made their position in the military establishment could be legally established. It has placed the nursing service of the Red Cross in a most embarrassing situation. We urged the nurses to enter this service, emphasizing that it was as important that the health of the soldiers in the cantonments should be protected and the care of the men who were in the hospitals connected with the great ammunition plants, which provided the necessary implements of war, insured, as the care of the sick and wounded soldiers in military hospitals. Inasmuch as nurses accepted this duty cheerfully and patriotically it seems most unjust that they are now ineligible for the same considerations as have been accorded to Red Cross nurses who entered the Army and Navy, also at our request.

CLARA D. NOYES.

LETTERS FROM NAVY NURSES

II

DEAR EDITOR: Some time has elapsed since we sent a word to you from this far-away station, but we have been "carrying on" and trying each day to feel that some progress is made in the work which is peculiar to these islands. We have had a change recently in our Senior Medical Officer, but there is no change in the amount of interest in our work. No one would dream that our present Medical Officer had recently left the school for the instruction of Hospital Corpsmen since he has, with so much ease, assumed the supervision of the school for native women. I am now making plans for the graduation. The Governor went to Sydney in June and, therefore, the date is later than in former years. There are but two graduates this year, but they have done good work and, I feel sure, will continue to develop as they go out among their own people. I hope that one of the graduates of last year will be able to go to the United States for a post-graduate course, as in the case of Pepe. Her sister is married to a native pastor. As you know, we depend upon the pastors to encourage the native girls to enter the Training School and also to encourage them to retain and act upon the knowledge they have received. Pepe found it a little hard to readjust herself when she returned from the United States, but she dearly loves her own people and very quickly took her place amongst them and has been of inestimable help since that time. Her experience at the children's hospital was a great benefit to her. She worked hard and the hours were long, but she learned a great deal. This morning, as a celebration (it is July 4), one of our large water tanks burst and sent a flood of water over the hill against one of the hospital wards. The houses are all open, but there is a cement wall about eighteen inches high around one side of the house and this wall broke the force of the stream and really was the means of saving the patients, but the water rushed through the ward, under the beds, and out the other side, leaving everyone covered with mud. The ward was without water and the nurses' quarters were also affected as we were supplied from the same system. On account of the holiday, I was afraid we should not be able to have the damage repaired immediately, but it was all in order by 2 p. m., as they piped us to another tank. This is unusually expeditious work for this easy-going place. I have greatly enjoyed my period of duty here. It has not been all pleasure, but what duty is? I do hope that the nurses who come to relieve us will be adaptable. A change is always hard for the native nurses for they are not sure if the change will bring someone who likes them and they are very easily affected. We have been fortunate in having Miss G——, who is young and full of fun and has the faculty of always making them happy.